

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

POTATO GROWERS RECORD BOOK

Crop Year 20

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| Name | |
| Address | |
| Registered Number | |

Introduction

Ireland is designated by the EU as a Protected Region for seed potatoes. Only Pre-Basic and Basic grade seed potatoes can be marketed in Protected regions. Basic seed potatoes carry a white label and Pre-basic seed potatoes have a white label with a diagonal violet line. Lower grade Certified seed potatoes, which carry a blue label and are produced outside the Protected Regions, must not be marketed in Ireland.

Designation as a Protected Region is based on the high health status of Ireland's potato crops this high health status is protected by legislation. The requirements of this legislation are outlined on the next page.

There is also an increasing emphasis placed on traceability, "from the planter to the plate". The drive for traceability comes from a number of sources including the EU and retailers, but ultimately it comes from the consumer.

This record book is designed to help growers comply with the new regulations and to ensure traceability. The book has three types of record sheets:

1. **Seed Source and Planting** – the location of each potato crop grown and details of the seed used. The column headed "Class" refers to the class of the seed planted – i.e. *SE2*, *E1* etc.
2. **Sales of Seed and Ware Potatoes** – refers to "commercial sales" only. Sales to consumers for their own use need not be recorded.
3. **Purchases of Seed and Ware Potatoes** – again refers to "commercial" purchases - i.e. intended for "commercial" sale subsequently. Purchases for one's own use need not be recorded.

Records of potato production and sales must be made available to an authorised officer of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on request.

This record book is available in electronic format at:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/>

or from

Crop Policy, Production and Safety Division
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Administration Building
Backweston Campus
Celbridge
Co. Kildare
Tel. 01-5058895

Requirements in relation to potato production

1. The *European Communities (Seed Potatoes) Regulations 2010* prohibit the marketing of potatoes other than certified pre-basic or basic seed potatoes satisfying minimum specified standards and requirements.

The *Seed Potatoes (Miscellaneous Provisions) Order 2010* restricts the planting of seed potatoes to

- certified pre-basic or basic seed potatoes, or
- one year's direct progeny of certified pre-basic or basic seed potatoes where that direct progeny has been grown by the person planting it.

Compliance with these requirements will be subject to on farm audits

2. The *Registration of Potato Growers and Potato Packers Regulations 2001* (S.I. 637 of 2001) prescribes detailed information that must be maintained by growers.

- Potato growers are required to keep a record of:
 - the date, quantity and variety of each lot acquired for planting,
 - the class, growers number and the country of production displayed on the official label accompanying each lot,
 - the varieties of potatoes planted and the area planted with each variety, and
 - the yields in respect of each variety grown.
- Potato growers when marketing their potatoes (ware and seed) are required to keep a record of:
 - the date, quantity and variety involved in each sale of potatoes
 - the names and addresses of persons to whom potatoes are sold. It is not necessary to include persons who buy for their own consumption.

